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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 001004

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/INS, DS/OP/NEA, DS/DSS/ITA  
LONDON FOR REIDL

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SUBJECT: NEPAL POLICE CLAIM VICTORY AGAINST MAOIST VALLEY  
LEADERSHIP

1. (SBU) Speaking before a group of Nepal Police officers at an Embassy-sponsored presentation, police chief Rana claimed a victory over Maoist leadership in the Kathmandu Valley, stating police efforts had netted the valley bureau leaders. Afterwards, RSO queried Rana over the veracity of local press reports that Krishna Sen, acting Maoist valley bureau chief, had been arrested. (Note: his predecessor was arrested approximately one month ago in a joint army and police action). Rana confirmed the reports and added with pride that it was his officers who had captured most of the valley leadership over the last two months.

2. (SBU) COMMENT: If Rana's claim regarding the insurgent's valley leadership is true, it is likely that lower level cadre in Kathmandu will be ineffective in mounting any coordinated campaign for the next several weeks (a period that coincides with the anniversary of the palace killings last year). While this does not rule out isolated incidents in the city, it is very welcome news.

MALINOWSKI